

2012 TVGTF Summary

The TVGTF continues to work toward its goals of increasing networking, fostering interagency collaboration, and creating strategic partnerships among agencies. Central to the TVGTF mission is sharing information about gangs and gang activity, which is achieved primarily through training and the timely dissemination of gang-related information. Meetings are routinely publicized and, whenever possible, held in conjunction with regional gang investigators' courses throughout Texas.

Last year, 39 TVGTF training and intelligence meetings were held throughout the state. More than 2,500 criminal justice and juvenile justice personnel participated in these statewide meetings. Approximately 115 hours of TCLEOSE-certified training were offered on a variety of topics, including gang database management, border violence and Mexican drug cartels, and federal and state prison gang updates.

Successful collaboration stems from valuing the expertise of others, fostering communication and cooperation, and recognizing the shared responsibility that is an integral part of any sustained effort. The TVGTF has been able to bring together professionals who, despite operating under different organizational missions and mandates, have similar goals and parallel responsibilities. The TVGTF epitomizes the importance of the commitment to collaboration in order to ensure public protection and ultimately restore and empower our communities.

Contact Information

For more information about the TVGTF, please contact:

TDCJ-Security Threat Group Management Office
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or

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TVGTF Participating Advisory Board Agencies

81st Judicial DA's Office
Bexar County CSCD
El Paso Police Department
Hale County Sheriff's Office
Harlingen Police Department
Lubbock County Sheriff's Office
Office of the Texas Attorney General
Tarrant County Criminal DA's Office
Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)
TDCJ – Office of the Inspector General
TDCJ – Parole Division
Texas Department of Public Safety
Texas Juvenile Justice Department

TVGTF Advisory Board Federal Partners

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives
Drug Enforcement Administration
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Federal Bureau of Prisons
US Attorneys' Offices
US Customs and Border Protection
US Immigration and Customs Enforcement
US Marshals Service
US Probation and Pretrial Services System



The Texas Violent Gang Task Force (TVGTF) has been successful in bringing together diverse personnel from criminal and juvenile justice agencies throughout the state for the common goal of establishing and maintaining a statewide gang networking system.

TVGTF
Established in 1996

Mission Statement

While the Texas Violent Gang Task Force (TVGTF) has maintained its original purpose – to promote interagency collaboration to suppress gang activity through the collection and dissemination of gang intelligence information – its mission has expanded to provide ongoing training in the prevention, intervention, suppression and prosecution of gangs.

What is the TVGTF?

The TVGTF was created to establish a statewide networking system among local, state and federal criminal and juvenile justice professionals.



What is its purpose?

The purpose of the TVGTF is to combine independent agency resources in a cooperative effort to focus on gang membership and activity trends. The collection and dissemination of gang intelligence enable law enforcement and correctional agencies to take a proactive stance toward tracking the growth and spread of gangs statewide.

How long has it been active?

The original TVGTF, established in 1996, was a strategic partnership among various local, state and federal corrections and law enforcement agencies.

In 1999, the 76th Legislature passed Senate Bill 1580, which turned the TVGTF into a formal group. The bill added Article 61.10, "Texas Violent Gang Task Force," to the Code of Criminal Procedure. In 2011, the 82nd Legislature expanded the TVGTF Advisory Board and encouraged representatives from federal criminal justice agencies to partner with the Board to carry out the task force's mission. The Board, comprised of Governor appointees and agency designees, includes:

- (1) A representative of the Department of Public Safety designated by the director of that agency;
- (2) Two representatives of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, including a representative of the parole division, designated by the executive director of that agency;
- (3) A representative of the office of the inspector general of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice designated by the inspector general;
- (4) A representative of the Texas Youth Commission designated by the executive director of that agency (*merged with the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission to create the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, effective December 1, 2011*);
- (5) A representative of the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission designated by the executive director of that agency (*merged with the Texas Youth Commission to create the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, effective December 1, 2011*);
- (6) A representative of the office of the attorney general designated by the attorney general;
- (7) Six local law enforcement or adult or juvenile community supervision personnel, and two local prosecuting attorneys designated by the Governor.

How is it organized?

The TVGTF has divided the state into six regions: Central, East, North, Panhandle, South and West. Each region has at least one TVGTF representative assigned to it who designates a Meeting Coordinator and Host Agency for each regional meeting to assist with organizing the meeting.

(Due to the sensitive nature of the uncorroborated intelligence discussed during the meetings, the TVGTF does not recommend the widespread distribution of intelligence meeting notes to attendees. Distribution of this intelligence may compromise the integrity of the information and jeopardize active cases.)

What are the requirements to become a participant?

Participation in the TVGTF is open to full-time peace officers, correctional professionals, probation and parole officers, prosecutors and other criminal and juvenile justice professionals who are actively engaged in the investigation, prosecution and suppression of violent gangs.

How can I become a participant?

At each regional meeting, new participants must complete and return a "Participant Information Form" during that meeting's registration period. Due to the sensitive nature of the information discussed, an agency identification card is also required to attend the meetings.



Sample Training Topics

- Border Violence/Mexican Drug Cartels
- Domestic Terrorism
- Security Threat Group Updates
- Emergence of Tangos/Hometown Cliques
- Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs
- Covert Gang Communication/Codes
- Advanced Gang Investigations
- Gang Prosecution Strategies

Law enforcement personnel attending TVGTF meetings will be able to receive TCLEOSE credits for the training offered.